

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Members: Governor's Task Force on Information Technology In Health Care

FROM: Governor.Ehealth

SUBJECT: Weekly Communiqué

DATE: July 8, 2005

This memo is designed to disseminate applicable information to the members of the Governor's Task Force on Information Technology in Health Care. Subject matter is a synopsis of information received at the above e-mail address. Each communiqué will be archived and posted to the newly created project web site.

### **Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO)**

The term "regional health information organization" means an organization or consortium of organizations that facilitates the sharing of personal health information among various provider settings. The recently introduced federal House Resolution 2234 defines the regional health information organization as the entity responsible for the drafting and implementation of a regional health information network plan for a given geographic area. RHIOs are being created across the U.S. as a result of two factors. First, there is a groundswell of locally-based collaborative initiatives working with government, employers, insurers, physicians and healthcare organizations to address the rising cost of healthcare, the declining health of Americans, and increasing concerns over the quality and safety of healthcare. Second, both the Federal government and other private sources are providing seed funding and incentive modification to make progress attainable. However, establishing a RHIO presents a host of technical, regulatory, financial and practical challenges. The models for creating both start-up and long-term funding vary among the existing models. However, when health care providers such as hospitals or health systems fund the development of a RHIO, the federal Stark and anti-kickback laws and regulations can pose a potential barrier. RHIOs such as CareSpark in eastern Tennessee and southwestern Virginia are turning to payers and purchasers to fund the network. Some organizations are treating the RHIO as a service provider and would charge user fees, while others are attempting to offer financial rewards for those that participate.

For more information on health information technology legal analysis access:  
<http://www.hpio.net/OHHIT/Reports/PressReleaseDWTHTITLegalAnalysis.htm>

For more information on existing RHIO projects like CareSpark access:  
<http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org>

For the complete text of H.R. 2234: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Health Information Act of 2005 and the complete text of S 1262: Health Technology to Enhance Quality Act of 2005 access:  
<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

## **Medicaid Funding**

The federal government reimburses states for a portion of their allowable Title XIX expenditures. This reimbursement is called Federal Financial Participation (FFP). Direct services are reimbursed based on a formula. The rate of reimbursement is determined by the state's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). For services, FMAP rates vary by state, but cannot be less than 50% or more than 83%. FMAP rates are determined by comparing each state's average per capita income to the national average.

Reimbursement for Medicaid administration is consistent across states, but varies by function. General administrative spending is reimbursed at 50%. Higher FFP rates may be available for other functions:

- Family Planning: 90%

- Design, development and installation of MMIS systems or enhancements: 90%

- MMIS operations: 75%

- Compensation and training of skilled medical personnel: 75%

- PR6 medical and utilization review: 75%

- Preadmission screening: 75%

## **Message from Subcommittee #2**

On May 4, 2004, Governor Bush issued an Executive Order creating the Governor's Health Information Infrastructure Advisory Board. The Board was established to advise the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) as it develops and implements a strategy for the adoption and use of electronic health records. The following web site provides summary information on existing EHR pilot projects underway in Florida.

[http://ahca.myflorida.com/dhit/pilot\\_projects.shtml](http://ahca.myflorida.com/dhit/pilot_projects.shtml)

## **SeniorNavigator**

The Statewide Advisory Council for the Integration of Community-based Services will be embarking on an E-Health pilot project that will coordinate various programs and supports for the elderly population. The Uniform Assessment Instrument information will be stored and made available to various elder agencies/organizations thereby negating the necessity for the client to be assessed multiple times in order to become eligible for additional services. In addition, the system would support patient scheduling and service coordination. Staff of SeniorNavigator, a 501c3 non-profit organization that provides a web-based service resource for Health and Aging, is providing the administration of this project.